

Thank you for allowing me to address members Human Services Commission. My name is Angela Botz. I am a lifelong resident of Illinois and a taxpayer. I am employed full time as Community Outreach Coordinator at IMPACT CIL to provide services for the deaf and hard of hearing. I am the President of the Illinois Association of the Deaf, a statewide organization, under the laws of the State of Illinois. I speak before you representing the deaf and hard of hearing statewide.

On behalf of the Jacksonville Community Center for the Deaf (JCCD), we should recognize that this not-for-profit corporation was established by the deaf and hard of hearing people of Jacksonville, Illinois. This testimony is presented to highlight FY2012 budget cuts. Department of Human Services, the Office of Rehabilitation Service and the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse allocates grant funding to JCCD programs, social and educational needs. The Commission is further supported by providing sign language interpreter services and caption providers to state agencies, public services as well as to private entities and to many different parts of downstate Illinois.

Jacksonville Community Center for the Deaf provides these services for the deaf:

- EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
- STATEWIDE INTERPRETER/CART REFERRAL SERVICE
- WORKSHOPS / SEMINARS / TRAINING
- RESOURCES
- ITAC DISTRIBUTION CENTER (TTY/Phone Program)
- SIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES
- SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

We ask you to please not to cut JCCD's funding for these services so needed for the deaf. I'm here to plea the case.

Because of the JCCD's revenue shortfall, they have examined ways to revise service delivery and to prioritize change which will have the least harmful impact on those of our people who are most threatened and most endangered by loss of accessible and effective services.

JCCD work to maintain their successes through programs, services, and cross agency collaborations. They are a partnership, an affiliated organization with Illinois Association of the Deaf. Without them, where can we give resources to the deaf and hard of hearing people in Illinois?

We ask you to continue fund the Jacksonville Community Center for the Deaf.

And not to cuts to Center for Independent Livings and that keep people living in community thus saving the state money.

Thank you

Testimony delivered by Angela Botz, President of Illinois Association of the Deaf